

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as set forth below.

1-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) A lumbar support mechanism comprising:

a lumbar support element ~~frame member~~ being flexible through a range of flexion, said lumbar support element ~~frame member~~ having an upper portion and a lower portion;

an adjustment device operatively engaged with said upper portion and said lower portion of said lumbar support element ~~frame member~~ such that adjustment of said adjustment device varies said flexion; and

two flap tongue portions, each flap portion having an elongated attachment edge at which said flap attaches to said lumbar support element, each of said flap portions having a medial axis extending approximately normal to said attachment edge, said flap tongue portions being disposed in opposite directions with said medial axes being substantially vertical, said flap tongue portions being defined by slots in said lumbar support element ~~frame member~~ and having a ~~tongue resilience~~,

~~wherein said tongue resilience remains substantially unchanged through said range of flexion of said frame member.~~

33. (Currently Amended) The lumbar support of claim 32 wherein said lumbar support element ~~frame member~~ has a variable resilience.

34. (Currently Amended) The lumbar support of claim 33 wherein said variable resilience varies through said range of flexion such that increased flexion stiffens said variable resilience of said lumbar support element ~~frame member~~.

35. (Currently Amended) A lumbar support mechanism comprising:

a lumbar support element ~~frame member~~ being flexible through a range of flexion, said lumbar support element ~~frame member~~ having a variable resilience, said variable resilience varying through said range of flexion such that increased flexion stiffens said variable resilience of said lumbar support element ~~frame member~~, said lumbar support element ~~frame member~~ having an upper portion and a lower portion;

an adjustment device operatively engaged with said upper portion and said lower portion of said lumbar support element ~~frame member~~ such that adjustment of said adjustment device varies said flexion; and

a plurality of flap tongue portions, at least two of said flap tongue portions being disposed in opposite directions, ~~said tongue portions having a tongue resilience,~~

wherein said flap portions are circumscribed by said lumbar support element.

~~wherein said tongue resilience remains substantially unchanged through said range of flexion of said frame member.~~

36. (Currently Amended) The lumbar support of claim 35, wherein each of said flap tongue portions is defined by a slot in said lumbar support element ~~frame member~~.

37. (Currently Amended) A lumbar support mechanism comprising:

a lumbar support element ~~frame-member~~ being flexible through a range of flexion, said lumbar support element ~~frame-member~~ having a variable resilience, said variable resilience varying through said range of flexion such that increased flexion stiffens said variable resilience of said lumbar support element ~~frame-member~~, said lumbar support element ~~frame-member~~ having an upper portion and a lower portion;

an adjustment device operatively engaged with said upper portion and said lower portion of said lumbar support element ~~frame-member~~ such that adjustment of said adjustment device varies said flexion; and

a plurality of flap ~~tongue~~ portions, each flap portion having an elongated attachment edge at which said flap attaches to said lumbar support element, each of said flap portions having a medial axis extending approximately normal to said attachment edge, at least two of said flap ~~tongue~~ portions being disposed in opposite directions from one another and having their medial axes oriented vertically, ~~said tongue portions having a tongue resilience~~;

~~wherein said tongue resilience remains substantially unchanged through said range of flexion of said frame-member.~~

38. (Currently Amended) The lumbar support of claim 37 wherein said flap ~~tongue~~ portions are defined by a slot in said lumbar support element ~~frame-member~~.

39. (Currently Amended) The lumbar support of claim 38 wherein said plurality of flap ~~tongue~~ portions is two flap ~~tongue~~ portions.

40. (Previously Presented) The lumbar support of claim 38 wherein said slot is an open polygon.
41. (Previously Presented) The lumbar support of claim 38 wherein said slot is an open curve.
42. (Previously Presented) The lumbar support of claim 38 wherein said slot is a combination of an open polygon and an open curve.
43. (New) The lumbar support of claim 32 wherein each of said flap portions is defined by a slot in said lumbar support element.
44. (New) The lumbar support of claim 32 wherein each of said flap portions is defined by a slot in said lumbar support element, wherein said slot is an open polygon.
45. (New) The lumbar support of claim 32 wherein each of said flap portions is defined by a slot in said lumbar support element, wherein said slot is an open curve.
46. (New) The lumbar support of claim 32 wherein each of said flap portions is defined by a slot in said lumbar support element, wherein said slot is a combination of an open polygon and an open curve.
47. (New) The lumbar support of claim 32 wherein each of said flap portions is integral with said lumbar support element.
48. (New) A lumbar support element comprising:
a flexible lumbar support element having an upper portion and a lower portion; and
a plurality of flaps attached to said flexible lumbar support element, each flap having an attachment edge at which said flap attaches to said lumbar support element, each of said flaps having a medial axis extending approximately normal to said attachment edge, at least two of

said flaps being disposed in opposite directions with said medial axes being substantially vertical, said flaps being circumscribed by slots in said lumbar support element.

49. (New) The lumbar support mechanism of claim 48 wherein said plurality of flaps is two flaps.

50. (New) The lumbar support mechanism of claim 48 wherein said flaps are integral to said flexible lumbar support element.

51. (New) The lumbar support mechanism of claim 48 wherein said flexible lumbar support element and said flaps are made of plastic.

52. (New) The lumbar support mechanism of claim 48 wherein said flexible lumbar support element and said flaps are made of sheet metal.